

**In The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 1. (Currently Amended) An equalizing meter apparatus operable to equalize a  
2 delivery of granular product by a pre-assembled meter roller assembly of an agricultural  
3 implement between a meter box and a plurality of product distributors, the equalizing  
4 meter apparatus comprising:

5 a plurality of fluted metering sections rotatably mounted on and compressed  
6 together across ~~on~~ a shaft, wherein each fluted metering section includes a plurality of  
7 radial outward extended fluted segments configured to meter the delivery of the granular  
8 product to at least one of the plurality of product distributors; and

9 an equalizing apparatus having a plurality of inward protrusions configured to  
10 engage the plurality of the fluted segments of the metering section, wherein the  
11 equalizing apparatus is selectively detaches and reconnects to the metering section of the  
12 pre-assembled meter roller assembly without losing compression of the plurality of fluted  
13 metering sections across the shaft.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The equalizing meter apparatus as recited in claim 1,  
2 wherein the equalizing apparatus further includes a fastener and a fastener opening, the  
3 fastener configured to extend through the fastener opening in the equalizing apparatus  
4 and engage the metering section.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The equalizing meter apparatus as recited in claim 1,  
2 ~~further including~~ wherein the equalizing apparatus includes a split ring having a first free  
3 end and a second free end, the split ring configured to ~~secure~~ encircle ~~to~~ the metering  
4 section.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The equalizing meter apparatus as recited in claim 3,  
2 wherein the first and second free ends of the split ring are configured to couple with each  
3 other, the coupled free ends defining a dovetail joint.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The equalizing meter apparatus as recited claim 3, further  
2 including fastener and a fastener opening, the fastener opening extending through the first  
3 and second free ends of the split ring, the fastener opening configured to receive the  
4 fastener, the fastener coupling the first and second free ends of the split ring.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The equalizing meter apparatus as recited in claim 3,  
2 further including an fastener and a fastener opening, the fastener opening extending  
3 through the first and second free ends of the split ring, wherein the first and second free  
4 ends of the split ring are configured to couple and define a dovetail joint that secures the  
5 split ring to the metering section, and wherein the fastener extends through the fastener  
6 opening in the split ring such that the fastener secures the dovetail joint defined by the  
7 free ends of the split ring.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The equalizing meter apparatus as recited in claim 6,  
2 wherein the fastener is a self-tapping screw configured to extend beyond the fastener  
3 opening through the split ring and engage the metering section.

1 8. (Original) An agricultural seeding implement, comprising:

2 a frame operable to be towed by a tow vehicle;

3 a product tank mounted on the frame and configured to retain a supply of granular  
4 product;

5 a conveyance system operable to convey the supply of granular product;

6 a meter box operable to receive the supply of granular product;

7 a granular product distributor configured to distribute the granular product in an  
8 agricultural setting;

9 a meter roller assembly configured for metering granular product delivery  
10 between the meter box and the product distributors, the meter roller assembly including:

11 a shaft configured to rotate in the meter box; and

12 a plurality of roller sections rotatably mounted on the shaft, the plurality of roller  
13 sections including at least one fluted metering section corresponding to at least one of the  
14 plurality of product distributors, wherein the at least one fluted metering section includes  
15 a plurality of fluted segments; and

16 an equalizing apparatus having at least one protrusion configured to engage the  
17 plurality of fluted segments of the fluted metering section,

18 wherein the equalizing apparatus is operable to detach from and re-connect on the  
19 metering section without disassembly of the meter roller assembly.

1 9. (Original) The agricultural seeding implement as recited in claim 8, wherein the  
2 equalizing apparatus includes a split ring, the split ring configured to encircle the at least  
3 one fluted metering section of the meter roller assembly.

1 10. (Original) The agricultural seeding implement as recited in claim 9, wherein the  
2 equalizing apparatus further includes a fastener and a fastener opening, the fastener  
3 extending through the split ring, the fastener opening configured to receive the fastener,  
4 the fastener configured to extend through the opening and engage the fluted metering  
5 section of the meter roller assembly.

1 11. (Original) The agricultural seeding implement as recited in claim 9, wherein the  
2 equalizing apparatus includes a fastener and split ring, wherein the split ring includes a  
3 fastener opening configured to receive the fastener, and wherein the fastener is

4 configured to secure a position of the split ring relative to the fluted metering section of  
5 the meter roller assembly.

1 12. (Original) The agricultural seeding implement as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
2 split ring includes a pair of free ends configured to couple with a dovetail joint to secure  
3 the split ring to the metering section, and wherein the fastener opening extends through  
4 the fastener opening of the split ring, the fastener securing free ends the dovetail joint.

1 13. (Original) The agricultural seeding implement as recited in claim 12, wherein the  
2 fastener is self-tapping into the opening in the split ring.

1 14. Cancelled.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a metering system, the metering  
2 system including a pre-assembled plurality of fluted meter sections mounted on a shaft  
3 and secured by a fastener, the method comprising the steps of:

4 \_\_\_\_\_ attaching an equalizing meter apparatus on one or more of the plurality of fluted  
5 meter sections pre-assembled on the shaft;

6 \_\_\_\_\_ securing a position of the equalizing meter apparatus on the one or more fluted  
7 meter sections;

8 \_\_\_\_\_ detaching the equalizing meter apparatus from the one or more fluted meter  
9 sections without disassembling the metering system; and

10 \_\_\_\_\_ re-connecting the equalizing meter apparatus to the pre-assembled fluted meter  
11 sections

11 ~~The method as recited in claim 14~~, wherein the equalizing meter apparatus  
12 further includes a split ring, and wherein the step of attaching the equalizing meter  
13 apparatus comprises:

14 \_\_\_\_\_ separating a pair of free ends of the split ring to receive the pre-assembled fluted  
15 meter section; and

16            attaching the split ring around the pre-assembled fluted meter section.

1    16.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the split ring further  
2    includes a first end and a second end configured to couple to each other, and the act of  
3    attaching the equalizing meter apparatus comprises:

4            coupling the free ends of the equalizing meter apparatus, wherein the coupled free  
5    ends of the split ring define a dovetail joint.

1    17.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the equalizing meter  
2    apparatus further includes a fastener and a fastener opening, the fastener opening  
3    extending through the dovetail joint defined by the first and second free ends of the split  
4    ring, the fastener opening configured to receive the fastener, and wherein the step of  
5    securing a position of the equalizing meter apparatus includes inserting the fastener  
6    through the fastener opening of the split ring, the fastener securing the dovetail joint  
7    defined by the free ends of the split ring.

1    18.    (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 15[[4]], wherein equalizing  
2    meter apparatus further includes a fastener ~~and a split ring having a fastener opening~~  
3    extending therethrough, the fastener opening configured to receive the fastener, and  
4    wherein the step of securing the position of the equalizing meter apparatus comprises:

5            inserting the fastener through the fastener opening in the split ring; and

6            extending the fastener beyond the fastener opening in the split ring;

7            engaging the pre-assembled fluted meter section with the fastener, the fastener  
8    securing the position of the equalizing meter apparatus relative to the pre-assembled  
9    fluted meter section.

1    19.    Cancelled.

1 20. (New) An equalizing meter apparatus operable to equalize a delivery of granular  
2 product by a pre-assembled meter roller assembly of an agricultural implement between a  
3 meter box and a plurality of product distributors, the equalizing meter apparatus  
4 comprising:

5 a fluted metering section rotatably mounted between a pair of bearing plates on a  
6 shaft, wherein the fluted metering section includes a plurality of radial outward extended  
7 fluted segments configured to meter the delivery of the granular product; and

8 an equalizing apparatus having a plurality of inward protrusions configured to  
9 engage the plurality of the fluted segments of the fluted segment of the metering section,  
10 wherein the equalizing apparatus includes a first free end and a second free end  
11 configured to separate apart so as to receive the fluted segment of the metering section  
12 therethrough and encircle the metering section.

1 21. (New) The equalizing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first and second free  
2 ends of the equalizing apparatus encircling the fluted segment of the metering section are  
3 coupled to one another by a fastener.